obtained in the flax-spinning and weaving industries, which were 288
able to export during this period.

The timber industries, which include sawmills and veneer and 313
boxwood factories, are very similar to those of Latvia, and similar conditions apply; but during these years Estonia began to specialize in the production of plywood. In this, British capital is interested through Venesta Ltd. There is also an important match industry, and a comparatively large cellulose factory at Tallinn. The paper and pulp industry suffered considerably from the War, but had begun to recover by 1929. The metal and machinery industries of Tallinn 325
suffered in the same way as those of Riga, though the depredation 727
and devastation caused by the War was perhaps less severe. But, 396
whereas before the War nearly 20,000 men were employed in the principal shipyards and engineering works of that centre, the difficulty of paying for raw materials and the loss of the Russian market brought plant almost to a standstill. Several factories were eventually adapted to produce goods for the home market, but during the period the industry as a whole was rarely working to more than about 20 per cent. of capacity.

Apart from the foodstuffs industry the only other industry of 382 ●
importance in Estonia was that connected with shale. It has been [335]
estimated that workable strata cover an area of about 2,400 square km., and that reserves amount to over 5,000 million tons. These reserves were by no means fully exploited during the period, but a beginning was made in using the cheap form of fuel provided by oil-shale for a number of industries and public utilities, such as gas-works and the railways. Moreover, the ashes which remain from oil-shale [339]
after carbonization can be used, when ground, as a binding material for building purposes; and, as a result, the quality of Estonian cement acquired a wide reputation. It is also possible to extract a liquid oil from oil-shale, and a plant, which began to operate in 1925, was set up for this purpose. The oil so obtained is refined into a number of different types of spirit such as benzine, gasoline, and lubricating oil; and its commercial use became possible during the period. Fin- [439]
ally, it may be mentioned that the British firm, New Consolidated Goldfields Ltd., has been interested in the production of oil from shale for some years.

Lithuania. Before the War Lithuania had no manufacturing in- 438
dustries comparable with those of Estonia and Latvia. Most were connected with the preparation of foodstuffs, tanning, or the manufacture of bricks, glass, and pottery; there was a timber industry, but this was on a much smaller scale than that of the two other countries. There were also two comparatively large ironworks (Schmidt Bros. and Tillmann Bros.) manufacturing nails, locks,